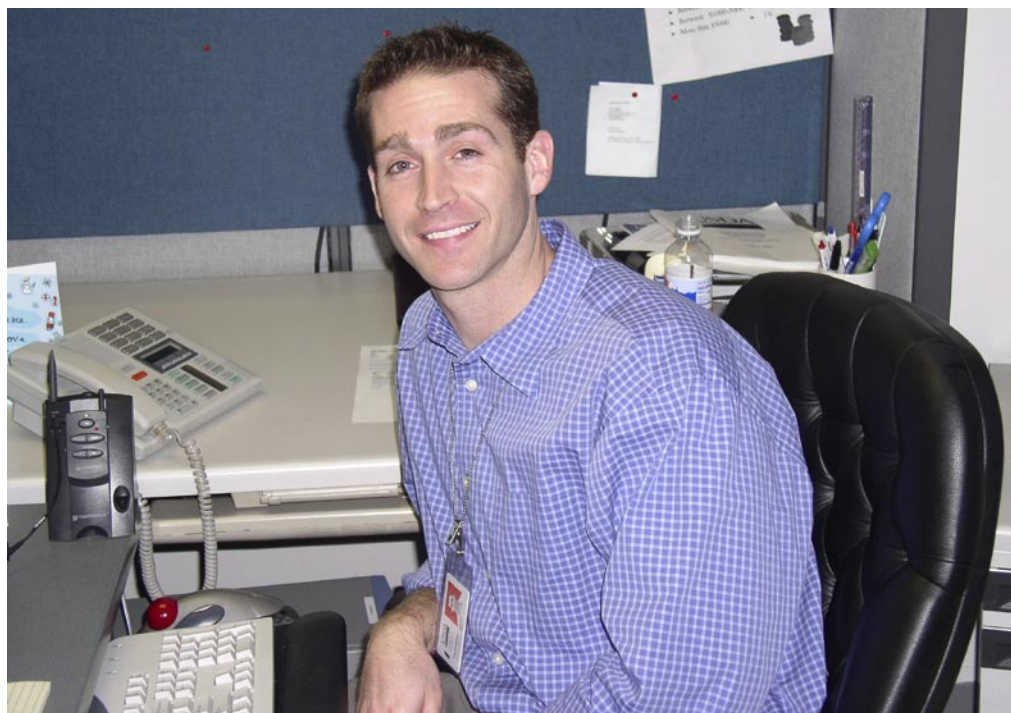




TARGET ACCESS



TARGET's newest staff member, David Kay, is all smiles in his new position.

Introducing TARGET's new addition, David Kay

TARGET Access

Issue # 7

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On December 10, 2003, TARGET welcomed David Kay as its newest CESSI Team member to replace Michelle McGrath who moved on to another contract.

Prior to joining the TARGET Team, David worked in various settings as an occupational therapist, providing services to individuals with temporary and permanent disabilities. He has a Bachelor of Health Science in Occupational Therapy from the University of Florida, and a Master of Education in Assistive Technology from George Mason

University.

During his second year of study at the University of Florida, David chose to pursue a career in the field of occupational therapy, and later decided to specialize in assistive technology. "I thought that it would be rewarding to work in a field where my job was to help individuals who had suffered injuries recover their functional abilities, and assist those with disabilities to gain independence. I was right."

David has worked with hundreds of people in all stages of ability, from
continued on inside cover...

Introducing David Kay, continued...

a hospital patient in the intensive care unit to someone who is uncomfortable at work. "People at all points in this range can benefit from assessing how their daily tasks are accomplished. The important thing to remember is that everything is relative, and the effect of a difficulty or disability on one person cannot be quantified in comparison to another. Every task can be made easier, provided that we understand how to accommodate for the issues," Kay said.

David's role at TARGET includes ergonomic and assistive technology needs assessments for USDA and other eligible employees. He provides assistance with program development and outreach for disability and assistive technology related issues in the workplace. In addition, he will be presenting the "Being Comfortable at Work" training sessions as well as the upcoming "Customizing Your PC" course. (See sidebar).

At the USDA TARGET Center, we are thrilled to have David on board. As a disability resource center, TARGET celebrates the diversity in our clients and employees, and strives to use strategies and technologies to give each equal access to the work environment. As David will tell you, this includes employees at every level of ability.

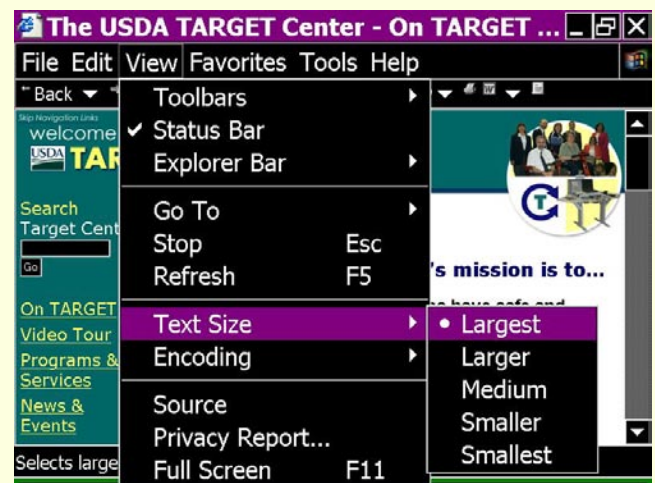
"The human body responds in various ways to the rigors of a typical work day, and usually our work environments are not as diverse as the people who are using them. It is imperative that we spend time evaluating the tasks that we do every day, and then determine the safest and most efficient way to do them. Often times it is a simple minor change to our environment or the way we approach our work. Other times adaptive equipment or an alternative product can make the difference. The most important thing is the awareness that we need to take a second look, or even a first look, at what we do every day."

TARGET to offer new class: "Customizing Your PC"

Would you prefer larger icons on your desktop, or a different color for your mouse pointer? How about being able to change the color, font and size of the words that appear on Web sites? Did you know that you can use your keyboard to accomplish almost everything that you do with your mouse? Learn to make your computer look and function in a way that fits your individual user habits. All of the tools are already on your computer and TARGET's new class "Customizing Your PC" will teach you how to use them. Look for a posting of course dates on the TARGET web site in the near future.

In this course we will explore:

- **Display Options**
- **Accessibility Features in the Control Panel**
- **Customization of Internet Explorer**
- **Keyboard Shortcuts**



Display options, such as enlarged fonts and high contrast, are one of the many topics covered in TARGET's upcoming class "Customizing Your PC."



TARGET FOCUS

USDA Emergency Preparedness Ensures Safety for Employees with Disabilities

Since September 11, 2001, emergency preparedness has been a hot topic in federal agencies. Government officials rushed to develop strategies and plans in the event of another emergency. The Department of Agriculture quickly became a leading agency in these efforts, particularly in relation to people with disabilities. As a result, Bruce McFarlane, Director of the TARGET Center, presented at two non-USDA emergency preparedness conferences in December. Mr. McFarlane, the disability advisor to the Incident Commander of USDA's Emergency Response Team, discussed the main components of emergency procedures and their relevance in regard to disability.

"The main functional components of the emergency procedures are the notification systems used to deliver timely and accurate information," McFarlane said. "The type of incident dictates the required response. Therefore, it is critical to use an effective notification system. An incident that affects one location requires notification to only that area, while a large-scale emergency would require department-wide proliferation. In emergency situations, a full range of notification options must be available. To ensure the safety of our employees, a multi-functional and flexible notification system was implemented by the USDA."

A diverse and flexible system must include alternate alert methods for employees who have a wide range of disabilities. For example, all employees with disabilities can be notified of a non-fire related emergency through the Computer Electronic Notification System (CENS). CENS alerts employees by sending a message to all computer desktops. This message is accessible to screen readers for blind employees. In some emergency situations, an alarm may be misunderstood as an evacuation notice and result in employees moving outside into the danger zone. CENS gives specific instructions about the emergency in a text format that can be read by popular screen reading programs such as JAWS.

"USDA management is very concerned about the welfare of all USDA employees," continued McFarlane. "When the CENS system was being developed, key personnel took the time and effort to work with the TARGET Center to ensure that the messages used by the CENS system were accessible to employees with disabilities. Emergency preparedness at USDA is an ongoing effort to develop notification processes and equipment that will ensure that all employees receive timely and accurate emergency information. Additionally, we are happy to share our knowledge and software programs with other federal agencies, at no cost."



The USDA TARGET Center maintains several list-servs to keep our customers informed about TARGET and disability-related events. These events include two monthly demonstrations of new technology, quarterly open houses, and various other special events that may not be scheduled at press time of this publication. Many of these list-servs are generated from customer lists based on responses to surveys. If you would like to be included in and/or removed from any of the following specific list-servs please e-mail Paul.Lloyd@usda.gov with your name and e-mail address, along with the list-serv topic(s) from the following list:

Section 508
Adobe PDF
Ergonomics
Low Vision
Blind
Deaf/Hard of Hearing
Mobility



USDA TARGET Center Calendar of Events

- **January 21st**
My TTY Translators for the Deaf Tech Demo
TTY Computer Software
from 9 am to 11 am
Location: USDA TARGET Center
- **January 22nd**
Workrite Presentation
Height Adjustable Work Surfaces
from 1 pm to 2 pm
Location: USDA TARGET Center
- **February 17th**
Plantronics Tech Demo
Featuring the new wireless office headset
from 10 am to 12 pm
Location: USDA TARGET Center
- **January 29th & February 27th**
from 12 pm - 1 pm
Don't forget! The TARGET Center presents **Being Comfortable At Work** on the last Thursday of every month.
Please call to reserve a spot today!

*Please visit our web site
for a complete listing of disability related events.*

*The electronic version of this publication,
also available on our web site,
can be read by a screen reader
and adjusted in Acrobat Reader for low-vision users.*

*If you need the print publication in an
alternative format such as Braille or large print,
please contact the TARGET Center.*



Helping People. It's What We Do.

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